

REMARKS

A new Abstract is attached to this Amendment on a separate sheet of paper.

The spelling of "autocrosslinked" and "hyaluronic" has been corrected where appropriate and the formatting of claim 166 has been corrected.

Claim 195 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Abatangelo et al. as evidenced by della Valle et al. or Dorigatti et al.

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 195 has been amended to point out that the cellular line is seeded in the presence of a medium treated with fibroblasts or in co-culture with fibroblasts. This feature is not disclosed in the prior art of record and for this reason, it is requested that this ground of rejection not be applied against amended claim 195.

Claims 162-169, 173-182 and 196-199 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as not being based on an enabling disclosure.

Reconsideration is requested.

The rejected claims have been amended to point out that the cell line is cultivated in the presence of "autologous or homologous human fibroblasts". In view of this amendment, it is requested that this ground of rejection not be applied against the amended claims.

Claims 162-198 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

Reconsideration is requested.

The appropriate Markush language has been inserted into claims 16, 183, 195, 197 and 198. The optional components, fibrin and or collagen have been inserted into claim 162 to provide a proper antecedent basis for claim 170. The term "biodegradable" has been added to component (b) of claim 162 so that claim 170 now has a proper antecedent basis for this term.

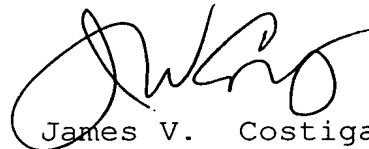
Claim 162 has been amended to correct the lack of antecedent basis for the optional component (d). Claim 183 has been amended to provide a proper antecedent basis for claim 192.

In order to overcome the rejection that there was a lack of an antecedent basis for claim 172, claim 172 has been amended to render it dependent from claim 164. Since claim 164 depends from claim 162 wherein the terms "human autologous or homologous" for fibroblasts are used, there is no longer a basis for this ground of rejection. The term "biodegradable" and the optional component "collagen and/or fibrin were inserted" into the claims where appropriate. For this reason, the rejection for a lack of an antecedent basis should be withdrawn by the Examiner. Claim 193 has been made dependent on claim 185 which is dependent from claim 183.

Claim 181 has been amended by replacing the indefinite article "A", with the definite article "The". Based on these amendments, it is believed that the amended claims are now in proper statutory form.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

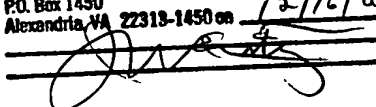
Respectfully submitted,



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ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a biological material having a matrix which contains at least one derivative of hyaluronic acid on which endothelial cells, glandular cells such as islets of Langerhans and liver cells, skin adnexa, germinative cells of hair bulbs, and keratinocytes are grown, optionally in presence of a medium treated with fibroblasts or in a co-culture with fibroblasts. A process for the production of said biologic materials and the use of such materials for human and veterinary applications such as cardiovascular and oncological surgery, in connection with transplants, for enhancing the biological process of tissue vascularization and for aesthetic use, and also for the screening of medicaments or toxic substances and as a support in the process of gene transfection. The biological material is based on an efficacious cell culture and a biocompatible and biodegradable three-dimensional matrix containing a hyaluronic acid derivative.